

The SWORD of the LORD

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

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LESSONS FROM THE DYING THIEF

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE, Editor

(Sermon preached at Gospel Shop Meeting at Kenosha, Wisconsin, December 17, 1943. Mechanically recorded for THE SWORD OF THE LORD.)

And now in the passage I mentioned yesterday, Luke 23, verse 39 and following, we read:

"And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us."

"But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?"

"And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss."

"And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom."

"And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

Yesterday I showed how this man came, confessing his sins, admitting the sinless deity of Christ, and submitting to Christ as his Lord and Master and simply praying. Today I want to draw some lessons from this wonderful story of the conversion of the dying thief.

The Vildest Sinner Can Be Saved

The first lesson to which I call your attention is this one, that the vilest sinner can be saved. I said yesterday that the Lord Jesus Christ came to save sinners and nobody else, nobody else. "The Son of Man is come to seek and save that which is lost" (Luke 19: 10.) "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners..." says I Timothy 1:15. And now, thank God, the meanest man, the vilest, dirtiest woman in the world can be saved. You know, the only thing that kept Hitler from being saved was that he would not in his heart repent and turn to Jesus for salvation, and that is all. Do you know that

the only thing that keeps any of these warlords, these dictators with the blood of millions on their hands, do you know that the only thing that keeps them from being saved, is that they will not repent and turn to Jesus Christ for mercy like this dying thief?

I remember that two men drove to the house where I was staying in Sherman, Texas, in the midst of a great revival campaign some years ago. They called me out to the car and one of them said, "We don't want to give you our names."

One said, "I was there last night. I didn't sit up close to the front. I wouldn't want to keep other people away and they wouldn't come if they saw me sitting on the front seat. I sat back on the stones of the old, burned-down courthouse and I saw some people come up last night to accept Christ and they were drunkards."

And then he said, "Brother Rice, can people like that be saved?"

And I said, "They surely can. That is right. That is the kind of people Jesus died for."

"Well," he said, "I'll tell you frankly. My pal and I have been guilty of every kind of sin." He said, "This man's father has spent \$25,000 trying to save him from the dope habit and it isn't worth it. My own mother's hair is as white as cotton. I am to blame. I have broken her heart these years. I have been a drunkard. I have been a bootlegger. I have been a morphine addict. I have broken all the laws, even to murder."

His friend tapped him on the shoulder and said, "Go easy! Go easy!"

"Well," he said, "at any rate, Brother Rice, I am the vilest kind of a man. Do you mean to tell me

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Billy Graham Winning Thousands in England

American Youth for Christ Team Including Billy Graham, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Barrows, and Gavin Hamilton Marvelously Used in Great Britain

By EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

All of us thank God fervently for the blessed work of Youth for Christ. What intelligent Christian has not been thrilled by the reports of the great work done by Youth teams sent to England, Scandinavia and Holland! So it was a real refreshing for me to receive a letter from Rev. Gavin Hamilton, my good friend, an Englishman, who spent several years in America but is now with Billy Graham and Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Barrows as a Youth for Christ team touring England. Brother Hamilton tells of marvelous revival blessings. First, read his letter, and then extract from a report which he sends to me.

Letter From Rev. Gavin Hamilton in England

"My dear Brother Rice,
"As I sit here in cold Ireland, shivering from the lack of fuel, I have fond remembrances of our fellowship together in sunny Chattanooga. I tell you, this

country takes it out of a person that comes from the United States (Continued on Page 2)



Rev. Billy Graham

Look for a Letter in the Mail From Me!

If you are a subscriber to THE SWORD OF THE LORD, I plan to write you soon about a very important matter. I am taking you into my confidence and plan to send every one of you a three-page letter about my burdens, my hopes and plans about the Lord's work committed to me. It will take lots of work to mail a letter to every subscriber to THE SWORD OF THE LORD. The expense will be heavy. But I want to write you personally and lay on your heart a certain burden.

Look for the postman! When you get my letter, please let me hear from you as soon as possible and let me know if you are with me in these plans.

In the Saviour's name,
yours,

JOHN R. RICE

Preparing the Church for Revival

By REV. JOE HENRY HANKINS, D.D.

(Sermon preached at Sword of the Lord Conference on Evangelism, Winona Lake, Indiana, July, 1946. Mechanically recorded for THE SWORD OF THE LORD.)

We need a revival in America. And we need to realize that there is a plan in God's Word that will work. Now I have always believed that God had a plan for everything He wants done. There is no question in my mind about that. God works by plan, and God has a plan for winning people to Christ. God has a plan for revival, and if we find God's plan and follow it, we will always have a plan that will work.

So I am giving you tonight, out of my own ministry in the pastorate for sixteen years before I went into evangelistic work, a plan that I studied out largely from following God's Word, seeking to know God's way of doing the thing, and trying that plan out. I tried it first in my second pastorate, in a town of about 1,500 people in North Texas. I was pastor there three years. I had been preaching only six months. In a town of 1,500 people this plan won, in three years over 300 people to the Lord. Then I was eight years in Childress, Texas, a town of 6,500, my third pastorate. The same plan added exactly 1,800 to that church. Then, in Little Rock, in the First Baptist Church, there were 3,105 added to that church in five years. So, I am bringing you something that I know works. Now let us try to be just as practical as we can in thinking this thing through.

Let me read a verse or two of Scripture, from the tenth chapter of Luke, the first 4 verses: "After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves. Carry neither purse, nor scrip [in other words, depend on God], nor shoes: and salute no man by the way." Don't take up a lot of time with nonessentials.

This business is important and pressing—people are lost! They need to know about the Saviour. Now, the reason I give you this scripture is to present this fact: Jesus believed in advance preparation. He sent out these seventy men to make preparation "in every city and village whither he himself would come."

In the fourth chapter of John there is the story of Jesus' dealing with the woman at the well in Samaria. After Jesus had won her she went back to the village of Sychar and told abroad what the Lord had done for her. She brought practically the whole village out to the Lord. When Jesus saw them coming, He said to His disciples, "Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest. And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal."

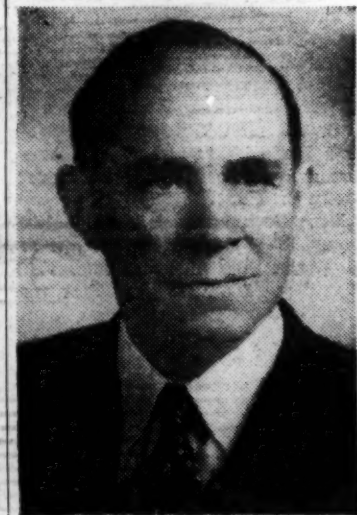
Not only did Christ demonstrate in His ministry that He believed in advance preparation, but the Bible is full of examples of how God took time out to prepare men

for the task that He wanted done.

God took eighty years to prepare Moses, not only for the job of leading the children of Israel out of the land of bondage, but to become the great writer of the first five books of the Bible.

Then God took time to prepare Paul. Paul started out to preach immediately after he was saved, but God sent him into the desert of Arabia for three years to get him ready for the ministry to which He had called him.

Then we have the example of Pentecost where Jesus, with the (Continued on Page 4)



Dr. Joe Henry Hankins

The Great Paradox

By REV. MONROE PARKER, M. A., D.D.

Assistant to the Acting President, Bob Jones College, Cleveland, Tennessee

My text is found in Matthew 27:42: "He saved others; himself he cannot save."

I always hesitate to touch the picture of Christ on Calvary's cross for fear that I might leave my fingerprints upon it. But I think the most wonderful picture that could be painted to a sin-cursed world or to the church of God is that picture of Jesus on

the cross between two thieves, with the blood-thirsty mob around laughing and mocking and hurling their infernal scorn in his teeth. As they passed by and wagged their heads and shot out their lips, they began to say, 'Hail, king of the Jews.' If thou art the Son of God, come down from the cross and prove it!

Jesus could have stepped down off the cross just like a king comes down from his throne, but He stayed on the cross.

He Chose to Die

He chose to stay there. He did not have to die. He said to Peter, "Put up thy sword into thy sheath: the cup which my Father hath given me, shall I not drink it?" (John 18:11). He volunteered to go to Calvary. He said, "No man taketh my life from me. I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again" (John 10:18). He said, "Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels?" (Matt. 26:53).

One angel unsheathed his sword one night and slew a hundred and eighty-five thousand of Sennacherib's men. Jesus said, 'God would give me twelve legions of angels,' a hundred and forty-four (Continued on Page 5)



Rev. Monroe Parker

Lessons from the Dying Thief

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that a man like me can be saved?" And I said, "The Lord is as willing to save you as to save me. I was exactly the same kind of sinner in my heart as you are and Jesus saved me."

That seemed too good to be true to that man, but there came a time two days later when he had gone down to the creek bottom and sat in his car and read this little booklet I am offering to give on the air today, "What Must I Do to Be Saved?" and just the gospel of John, the marked copy; he read through the gospel of John and cried and prayed and believed what God said, and trusted Christ, and I saw him come out openly, publicly, with joy and claim the Saviour. Yes, the vilest sinner in the world can be saved.

You know there is one complaint that people made about Jesus when He was here. He went home with Zacchaeus, that crooked tax collector, and the people complained and said, "Why, this man goes and eats with sinners, with publicans and sinners." You remember when a poor, sorry, street-walking woman came in behind Jesus and knelt at His feet and cried. Her tears washed the dust from His feet and she dried them with her hair. And the Pharisees who sat across the table or reclined on the couch across the table, said, "Why, if that man were a prophet, he would know that this woman is such a sinner and he would not let her touch Him." But Jesus told the woman, "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace" (Luke 7:50).

You remember the woman who was taken in adultery, in the very act, and brought to Jesus to be stoned, and how Jesus said, "Where are those thine accusers?" And He said, "Neither do I condemn thee; go, and sin no more" (John 8:10, 11).

I say that the Lord Jesus died to save the vilest sinners. I am so glad that this thief was converted that day. I am so glad that the man who was dying there, condemned for his crime, who had cursed and sworn and railed and who, in a few moments more would be dead, I am glad he repented, and that Jesus stopped dying long enough to save a sinner like that. I know that the gospel is good for that kind of sinner. You know, may I say this, my preaching is sometimes offensive to a certain very effete kind of men. I remember one good preacher in Chicago who said, "Oh, that man, John Rice, he doesn't know anything about grace. He is always preaching about sin."

And I said, "I do preach hard and plain against sin; but if you want to know, that is the only kind of preaching that is going to help anybody who is a wicked, vile, out-and-out sinner; for Jesus died for sinners." That is right!

I remember when I was pastor of the First Baptist Church of Shamrock, Texas, a woman was converted who did not have a good reputation. I do not know more than that; but I suppose that her life had been very shabby and

sorry, and so when she was converted and came to the church and made a profession, I had the joy of winning her. And then when she came and was baptized, I said to this woman, "You must come now to the big women's Bible class on Sunday morning. They will be so glad to have you. You must come to the women's missionary meeting here on Monday afternoon."

She said very modestly, "Well, Brother Rice, I don't think that the women would want me. My life has not been good. I don't think they would want me."

I said, "You are saved now, aren't you? You have trusted Jesus, haven't you, and hasn't He given you forgiveness and peace and good cheer?"

She said, "Yes, but I don't think that these women would want me. I don't think that I should come."

"Oh, yes," I said, "they will be glad to have you. These are good Christian women."

And so, just to make sure, I went to the teacher of the women's class and to the head of the women's missionary society, the same woman, and I said to her, Mrs. So-and-so was converted, you remember, and was baptized on Sunday night. I have asked her to come to this class, of course, and I want you to make her feel at home. She thought maybe you would not want her, but I assured her that you would. You make sure to make her feel at home."

And this woman said to me, this Christian woman, this teacher and leader, "Well, Brother Rice, I do not think that you had better ask her. Her reputation is so bad, and I do not think that people would think well of us if we had that kind of woman coming into the class, and I do not think that we better ask her."

Now, you may not like that way of doing and you may think that it is not the way a nice pastor would do; but I got on a high horse and I said to this woman plainly, "I am going to invite that woman. I am going to see that she comes. And you are going to make her feel at home. And if I find a single woman in the class or that women's missionary society that draws her skirts away, if you make her feel not at home, if you make her feel not wanted, if you act the dirty hypocrite in this matter, God helping me, I will call your name from the pulpit, brand you as the hypocrite you are." I said, "She is going to come and she is going to feel at home there."

I would not be pastor of a church that the vilest sinner in the world could not be a member of if he has been converted, if his sins are under the blood! That is the kind of people Jesus died for and that is the kind He wants. I am glad this thief was saved, aren't you? I would feel perfectly at home coming to that kind of a Saviour. No other kind would do me any good.

And today if there is somebody here who is mean, whose hands are red with human blood: Jesus died for you. If some woman is in disgrace, and your purity, that white flower of a woman's loveliness, is dragged in the dirt and wilted, I tell you now that if that beauty becomes ashes and the fragrance becomes a stink because of the life you have lived, dear, fallen woman, Jesus loves you and you can be saved.

I remember a woman who came to me in San Antonio, Texas; she told me the life she had lived for five years, because her heart was broken; her husband had deserted her, and she had said, "I don't care." And she had gone to the bottom. She said to me, "Do you think God would save a woman like me?"

I said, "If you will come tonight, confessing your sins to Jesus Christ and depending on Him, honestly repenting and trusting Him, you can go home tonight as clean as any woman in San Antonio."

Thank God she did! I tell you now: Jesus Christ died for sinners; and if you are a sinner, then my gospel is good for you; and if you will not admit that you are a

wicked, old sinner who ought to be in Hell, then I do not have anything for you. Oh, Jesus died for sinners of the vilest kind!

Saved Without Confirmation or Baptism or Church Membership

Now another lesson here, and I want you to know that it is wonderful! This man was saved without any of the rites of the church. This man was saved without being baptized. This man, this dying thief, Jesus said, would today be with Him in paradise. He was saved without confirmation; he was saved without church membership; he never took the Lord's Supper; he never did sing in the choir; he never did any kind of Christian work. This poor man was saved, but the church did not save him. I have been in a lot of churches, and I am for baptism; I am for anything else taught in the Bible, after you are converted. But I want you to know right now that salvation is not a thing that men can do for you; it is not a thing that the church can do for you; it is not a thing that rites and ceremonies will fix for you. You need more than water, brother, whether it is a tankful or a spoonful on your head. You need the blood of Jesus Christ and nothing else goes to fix a poor wicked-hearted sinner. I say Jesus Christ saved this man without any rites or church membership at all. No baptism, no confirmation, no first communion or second communion. Bless God for that kind of salvation! I can come for that kind.

And another thing, this man was saved without ever doing one good deed as far as we know. I want you to notice that this man had never given a penny, as far as we know, to God. Well, a lot of people would not want that kind of a member, would they? Well, he did not have any change; he did not have any clothes, did not have any pockets, did not have any pocketbook, and if he had had a pocketbook he would not have had any money in it. This poor thief! And yet he was saved.

I want you to notice that this man was never able to lift a finger for God. His hand is nailed there. He will never move it until he dies. I want you to see that this man will never take a step for Jesus. His feet are nailed there and he can not move them until he dies. I want you to see that this man can never attend a service, can never sing a song, can never give a testimony. He is going to die in a few minutes. Jesus said, "To day shalt thou be with me in paradise." "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost." (Titus 3:5).

Instant Salvation for Those Who Trust Christ

Brother, this is a wonderful salvation, free to sinners who will repent and trust Jesus. Are you not glad for that kind? I want you to notice another lesson from this dying thief's conversion: that is, that salvation is instant.

You know, this is wonderful. One man said to me once, "Brother Rice, I believe I am getting myself saved. I believe I am making it. I am nearly saved."

No, you are not. You are either all in or you are all out. You are either for God or for the Devil. You are born once or you are born twice. Nobody is almost saved. You are either all saved or all lost, that is all. That is right. And this man was converted even when he turned to Jesus saying, "Lord, remember me." And Jesus said, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." You know, the thief would have been content if Jesus had said, "All right, when I come back to reign in Jerusalem, when I come back to establish my kingdom, I will give you another chance." That was all the thief asked. But Jesus said, "No, I will not wait for that. This very day I will take you straight home to Heaven and introduce you to my Father and the angels." That very moment the thief found Christ.

You know that is the way it was with the publican in the temple who smote upon his breast and

Billy Graham Winning Thousands in England

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where we are so used to plenty of good food and plenty heat. However, we are seeking to do a job for God here and we believe it is being done.

"I have collected the reports herewith which I know you will be thrilled and delighted to read for I do not know very many men in this old world that love to hear of God saving souls and blessing His people like you. It may be that you shall be able to use some of these reports in your magazine, *The Sword of the Lord*, for very many of its readers are personal friends of the members of this team, and I am quite sure that most all of the readers will be thoroughly interested in the reports given.

"We have had a tremendous wave of blessing in every place where we have preached. The auditoriums have proved too small on many occasions, and in several places we have turned hundreds and thousands away. For example, in our Belfast campaign some 3,500 failed to get into our already jammed and packed auditorium, and every night we had a double-header, and that was not enough to house all the people that would have liked to be present.

"In the midst of all these services there have been times when we have felt that the Spirit of God would break through and kind of break up the meeting by sinners calling out for mercy, but whilst this kind of demonstration has not been in evidence we have witnessed hundreds and hundreds of young and old, from different walks of life, weeping their way to the foot of Jesus Christ for salvation. We have also witnessed a movement among the saints of God, especially the young people, when the challenge for full surrender and full-time service has been given. It was our joy to see in one night almost three hundred young folks respond to the challenge.

"Despite all the lethargy and apathy prevailing in this country, we can see the movements of the Holy Spirit of God, and it is generally believed by the leading evangelists here that these campaigns may be the means of sparking a nation-wide revival. These men are convinced that our campaigns have been the largest in this country since the days of Torrey and Alexander. Indeed, in some places they have been much larger and with greater results.

"You may imagine how the imagination of these leaders has been fired when a number of them met by mutual consent in East-

said, "God be merciful to me a sinner," and went down to his house justified that day. Justified before he was baptized, justified before he joined the church, justified before he did a thing. He was just saved that moment.

And here is another word: this man was saved with no probation. If the man had to make good to be saved, he would not have been saved instantly. But he did not have to make good. Jesus died for him and that settled it. You remember the woman who was such a sinner and who came and cried over Jesus: Jesus said, "Thy faith hath saved thee; go in peace," and her sins which were many were forgiven her. Already saved? Instant salvation without any probation! That is wonderful. The only way you can get that kind of salvation is free by the grace of God. Oh, what a Saviour! Listen, friend who hears me in this hall of the Gospel Shop Meeting in Kenosha or by your radio, will you come today and say, "Lord, I am a sinner, and I need that kind of a Saviour, and today I repent of my sins and trust You to forgive me." Will you do that?

I wonder how many in this congregation can say, "Brother Rice, I know my sins are already forgiven." Don't you say it unless you have been converted. Don't you say it unless you have really

borne recently and unanimously decided that a conference of all evangelical leaders from Great Britain, Scandinavia and Europe should be called to confer about the best means and methods of reaching our unchurched young folks. This conference will be held in Birmingham, March 26 through 28.

"I do wish, Brother Rice, that you could find some place and time in your busy schedule to come to this old country of ours and put on some city-wide campaigns. I feel that under God you would be greatly used and that tremendous blessing would flow. Perhaps you will think and pray about this!

"I hope to go to the States with my family in the month of May and trust I shall have the opportunity of more fellowship with you then.

"Remember me kindly to your good wife and also to Miss Kathryn Hamilton.

"With every good wish,

"Yours in His happy service,

(Signed) "Gavin Hamilton"

We are grateful for Brother Hamilton's work. Kathryn Hamilton mentioned here (not a relative) was formerly Brother Hamilton's secretary and now works in *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* office.

We know that our friends will pray that God will lead. Should I go to England for some city-wide campaigns? That has been much on my heart within the last year.

Here are some quotations about the Billy Graham services in England, sent by Brother Hamilton.

FROM THE SECULAR PRESS

The Liverpool Evening Express, on the front page, comments, "Billy Graham, six foot tall, energetic, Vice President of 'Youth for Christ' International, Mr. Gavin Hamilton, Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Barrows are high-powered personalities, come to lead Britain's youth back to Christ. Widespread co-operation from legal authorities and clerical leaders is being experienced at the campaign in the Central Hall."

The Bradford Telegraph and Argus, in a front page editorial, comments, "The American Youth for Christ Team, headed by the Rev. Billy Graham, opened a campaign in the city theatre with a capacity audience that promises to lead us back to a spiritual revival not seen since the days of John Wesley. The soul of the nation can only be saved as we come back to God and recover the true balance of spiritual values. . . It is estimated that 95 per cent of the

(Continued on Page 3)

Attention, Please!

If you are a subscriber to *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*, here are four things you ought to know:

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EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

D.D., LITT.D.

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Billy Graham Winning Thousands in England

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young people never go to church in Bradford."

The Belfast News Letter: "Four to five thousand people were turned away from the Wellington Hall last night as the American evangelist continued to get hundreds to make decisions for Christ. Cliff Barrows, a singing trombone; a choir of three hundred voices; Gavin Hamilton, Scotch American evangelist; and Billy Graham, American youth leader, combined to lead in a campaign unprecedented by any American since the days of the great Evangelist D. L. Moody."

FROM THE RELIGIOUS PRESS

Life of Faith, November 20, 1946: "The City Hall in Newcastle-on-Tyne, with accommodation for 2,500 people, was filled to capacity night after night. These three young Americans have left a good impression as a result of this visit. . . . They won their way into the hearts of the people immediately by their sincere and brilliant personalities. Night after night the evangelist dealt with important themes as 'Eternal Punishment' and 'The Second Coming of Christ?' and his knowledge of Scripture was a revelation to many of how a young man, willing and eager to learn, can be taught of the Holy Ghost. . . . Many of the hundreds of converts were outstanding, including a Nigerian, student from the University, an actress, and two Roman Catholics, etc."

Life of Faith, January 22, 1947: "Reading Town Hall, the largest auditorium in the town, was packed to capacity, a large proportion being young people. Hundreds were converted as Billy Graham and Cliff Barrows, under the anointing of the Holy Spirit, were used mightily of God in a two day campaign."

Life of Faith, January 29, 1947: "Not since the days of D. L. Moody has any American team attracted such crowds in the city of Belfast as do the American 'Youth for Christ' team under the direction of the Rev. Billy Graham. Night after night the Wellington Hall, seating nearly two thousand people, has been filled to capacity! The Minor Hall, seating five hundred, has likewise been packed and hundreds have been turned away. On last Saturday night at least three to four thousand people were left standing in the queue which extended two to three blocks long. Hundreds have professed Christ! Many nights two identical meetings were held. Billy Graham's messages have been expositions of the great themes of Scripture. . . . The audience will never forget his message on the subject of 'Satan,' tracing the origin and descension of Satan and ending with his various subtle devices. . . . People have been amazed at the depth of his message. . . . Cliff Barrows' interpretation of the old hymns of the Church on his trombone has proved to be a blessing to the thousands who have attended the gatherings."

WRITTEN COMMENTS BY OUTSTANDING LEADERS

Rev. C. T. Cooke, Editor of The Christian, comments: "A powerful preacher with a power for exposition. His ministry has been blessed to the conversion of thousands. . . . His campaigns in various parts of the country have aroused tremendous interest. . . . We rejoice greatly in all the great signs of definite divine approval resting on this 'Youth for Christ' team."

Rev. W. H. McWhinney, Baptist, "The team had greater results in one night in our city than any extended campaign we have had in years."

Rev. Myrddin Lewis, Baptist, Birmingham: "I have been in many great campaigns! . . . I have seen many difficulties encountered! but I have never seen such a victory as we had in Birmingham! The clergy of the city are more united than ever before! Not only were hundreds converted

but thousands of Christians were revived. The fearlessness of young Billy Graham to face the ministers of the city and tell them point blank their difficulties and sins at first stalked the staid and formal clergy. By the first weekend of the campaign the battle was being won and revival was on the way."

Bishop Barnes, Bishop of Birmingham, Church of England: "The reports of the campaign at the City Hall indicate a deep spiritual need and these Americans are showing us how it can be done. Their preaching and singing, so unusual, is attracting widespread interest."

Bishop Carey, Eastbourne: "Tonight's meeting, which I attended at Eastbourne, was one of the greatest meetings that I can remember! My heart was both touched and thrilled! I believe this type of preaching to young people is what is definitely needed throughout the Church of England."

Rev. Glyn Morris, Langley, "I was prepared to criticize the coming of these Americans but the power of their message in song and word broke my heart as revival came to our city."

Rev. J. M. Phillips, Congregational, Hull, "The campaign of Billy Graham and Cliff Barrows shook our entire city."

Rev. Ralph Mitchell, Newcastle-

on-Tyne, President of Tyne-Side Evangelistic Council, writing to the great British Evangelist Rev. Alan Redpath, states: "The Newcastle campaign with Billy Graham, Cliff Barrows and Gavin Hamilton was one of the greatest since the days of Moody. Billy Graham amazed everyone with his demonstration and ability and preaching the great themes of Scripture. He handled the great theological themes deftly and had the unique ability of giving a teaching address with an evangelistic appeal. Hundreds were converted. I predict that under God this young man can be the spearhead for the great revival we have been praying for."

Pastor F. H. Ferves, Secretary, Irish Baptist Association: "The Belfast campaign has been marked by the preaching of the 'Word' such as we have not seen in many years! We have seen the hand of God! Our religious lives can never be the same!"

Mr. W. E. Dornan, secretary, Y. M.C.A. Belfast: "These are the largest crowds the Wellington Hall has ever had since I can remember. It has been glorious to see the people who were suspicious at first concerning these young Americans be completely won over."

Rev. J. D. Blinco, Methodist, Central Hall, Southampton, "These men have been greatly received by all the evangelicals of our city and have kindled a fire of revival in our midst."

Mr. Odley Sutton, President of Sutton Seed Corporation, the largest Seed Company in the world:

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The Founder of Bob Jones College, Cleveland, Tennessee

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If the cause were not so important and the need so great, I would not make these appeals to you Christian friends. Most of you who will read this believe in Bob Jones College and the work it is doing. You are sympathetic in your feeling toward our expansion plans because you know it is our Christian duty to do the most good possible to the most people possible. Many of you who have read our appeals before have said in your heart, "I am going to help them. I am going to send them some money." But you have just neglected it. So I just have to keep appealing to you and reminding you that you have not yet sent in your share of the money that we need to help us complete the first unit of the great university plant which is now under construction at Greenville, South Carolina. Remember, we are getting ready to provide an opportunity for hundreds of young people to train for Christian leadership that we cannot, for lack of

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Suppose you ask God which amount He would have you send. We are willing for Him to guide you because it is His work and not ours that we are sincerely doing. Remember, you can help us in the three following ways:

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Preparing the Church for Revival

(Continued from Page 1)

sacrifice of Calvary just completed, with the commission just delivered, yet told them to tarry at Jerusalem for a time of preparation until they were ready, prepared by the endowment of power by the Holy Spirit. So we have a ten days' waiting and prayer meeting, then the filling of the Holy Spirit, and marvelous results. Yes, God has demonstrated all through the Bible that He believes in and practices advance preparation.

God made advance preparation in Peter's case when he was to preach the gospel for the first time to the Gentiles. God had him up on a housetop praying, let down that sheet, and gave him that vision of the sheet filled with all manner of beasts that Peter, a Jew, considered unclean. God said, "Arise, Peter; slay and eat." Peter answered, "Not so, Lord: for nothing common or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth." But God said, "That which God has cleansed, call not unclean." When Peter awoke from his vision and these men were knocking at the gate and beseeching him to go to this Gentile to preach, Peter knew what God was getting him ready for. But God was preparing Cornelius, too. We do not know how long God was preparing that group of Gentiles. There was advance work done before the message was presented, and everything was ready on both ends of the line when the preacher got there. A revival broke out the first time he preached.

Brother, I would like to get one like that, wouldn't you? Amen! Where you didn't have to sweat and weep and lie awake at night and toss on your bed with a broken heart, and agonize. Any evangelist on earth who has a passion for souls knows what I am talking about. Oh, that period that you go through in almost every meeting! You come out of that one wishing, hoping that the next will be ready when you get there. You go to the next only to find it just like the last. The truth of the matter is that hardly any churches—and I do not say this critically; I say it with the hope that it might cause some of us to stop and think—that hardly any churches make advance preparation for revivals. Most place where I go the churches have done absolutely nothing but set a date and invite an evangelist and maybe a singer; and think they are ready for revival.

If you could see some of the letters we evangelists get, some of the invitations that come to us! For instance, I was in a meeting in Dallas, Texas, two years ago. At the beginning of the second week I received a telegram from a pastor in another town in Texas. He said, "I have just learned that you are in a meeting at such and such a church in Dallas, and I wonder if, when you get through there, you could come to us immediately." Now that is a lot of preparation, isn't it? Waiting until just one week before you want to start, to invite the evangelist. Well, I did not have an open date, but if I had, I would not have gone. You will be surprised to know how many invitations we evangelists get from those who want to start a meeting within a week or ten days or two weeks. They come in all the time. What does it mean? It means that somebody is asleep at the switch. If you want to make preparation for a revival, you must start about six months or a year in advance. They used to say in Texas and Arkansas that I closed one revival by announcing the date for the next. That was almost literally true. We closed one and started getting ready for the next.

A great general once said that a good ready is a battle half won. Another saying among military men is this: "Battles are not won or lost on the battlefield; they are won or lost the night before in the period of planning and getting ready." I say tonight from years of experience—I have done a lot of

evangelistic work in the pastorate besides what I have done in the general evangelistic work—the number one cause of failure in revivals or of meager results when there ought to be multitudes won to Christ, is the lack of preparation beforehand. That is true in both the church and in city-wide campaigns. Let me repeat it: if you want to make adequate preparation for a revival in your church, start six months or a year ahead. Give your revival the best date on your church calendar. Secure your help months in advance, and then you will have an opportunity to get the man you want and other capable help.

I. PHYSICAL PREPARATION

Now there are two phases of preparation for a revival in the church. One is the physical preparation; the other is the spiritual preparation. First let me speak of the physical preparation. I mean by that the organization and other things that must be done.

Assembling a List of Prospects

First, at the head of the list I put the assembling of a list of prospects, people that ought to be reached in that revival. Know who they are and where they live. Have ready and tabulated in an index file a list of prospects, a live list—I mean, up-to-date—that you know exactly where they are. That is one of the most important matters about a revival in a church. Before entering the ministry I used to sell life insurance for a while on the side. I had a long list of prospects. I knew their names, knew where they lived, knew how many children were in the family, or how much insurance they already had. Some of them wondered how I got that information. Sometimes I wondered myself how I got so much of it. I was interested, and there were some things I needed to know. So I just kept plowing in and prodding around until I knew exactly how a fellow stood on the matter of insurance.

Before the O. P. A. tied up the automobiles and you could buy one when you wanted it, every automobile salesman in the country had a list of prospects. If you were ever in the market for a car, somehow every automobile salesman in town knew it before the next night. And they just literally overwhelmed you. Sometimes you wondered how they found out that you were in the market for a car. But they did. So many times I think of what Jesus said, "For the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light" (Luke 16:8).

1. Visitors in Your Church Services

How will you secure your list of prospects? The most fruitful way that I ever used was that in every service in my church I had the visitors stand for recognition, both Sunday morning and Sunday night, and my ushers handed each visitor a card for him to fill out. On that card the questions were asked:

- Are you a Christian?
- Are you a member of a church?
- What Church?
- Are you interested in becoming a member of this Church?
- Give your name and address.

And on Monday morning I dictated a personal letter to each person who had signed that card. If he were a member of some other church in the city, the letter merely expressed our appreciation for his worshipping with us. If he were a visitor from outside the city, the letter was of the same tenor. But if he were unsaved our interest in his own soul was mentioned tactfully and his prayerful consideration of our church and future attendance solicited. Not only was the letter sent but there were personal workers to follow it up that same week with a visit in the home. If the person indicated on his card that he was unsaved, the best soul winner in the church saw that person to try to win him to Christ. He was instructed, "If you cannot win him,

bring word to the pastor and he will call on him." Those cards were carefully filed and kept. Those visitor's cards were also passed out every night during the revival. The first thing the next morning they were assorted for prospects—those whom we felt ought to be reached by that revival for our church membership or for the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. A Religious Census

The next way to get your list is a careful and a complete religious census. As a pastor, I did not know how to have a revival without census. If you are going after people, you have to know where they are. If you do not, then when people go to visit three-fourths of their time will be absolutely lost and wasted, uselessly visiting members of other churches in the town. They do not know who the people are. We have to recognize that we are living in a different day. You can announce and publicize all you please that you have an outstanding and nationally known or an internationally known evangelist, and a wonderful singer, but you are not going to get the people to a revival by that method only. Now you can announce it, you can publicize it, but if you do nothing more, then your evangelist is going to preach to empty benches and you are going to try to win lost people who are not there. What profit is there in an evangelist pouring out his heart in a soul-winning message when unsaved people are not there? I have preached to a thousand people, with the feeling in my heart all through the sermon that I was not preaching to a single unsaved person. You can imagine what that does to an evangelist.

3. A Questionnaire in Sunday School

The third way I used to get a list of prospects was to put a questionnaire into the hands of the children in my Sunday School and ask them for information about their family—their mother, their father, their brothers, their sisters—whether they were saved, whether they were affiliated with the church. And when those children filled out those questionnaires, I had a multitude of prospects, some of the best I ever got in my life, because already we had a contact through our Sunday School with that home and there was at least some interest in the matter of religion, in the matter of God, or their children would not have been in Sunday School.

4. A List of Unsaved Attending Sunday School

Then my fourth method was keeping an up-to-date list in the hands of every Sunday School teacher of every unsaved pupil in the School. Now this master list, I said, ought to be in an index file. Duplicate cards should be made for each one of those prospects and then grouped according to their location in the town, so that one visitor can reach four or five homes on one mission, one visitation.

Enlisting and Training of Workers

The next thing in the preparation is the enlistment and training of your personal workers. Get them definitely committed and signed up at least sixty days before the revival. Then have a training class, a class of instruction, teaching them how to do the job. Usually I taught that class myself. It was so valuable that I would not entrust it to anybody unless I knew that he knew how to give them exactly the instructions they needed. I did have some people who were capable and oftentimes they relieved me of the responsibility. But it is so vital that I preferred, if possible, to do it myself. This was done before each revival in our church. Then the personal workers should be divided into groups, with a captain over each group, and a part of the auditorium assigned to each group, the captain being responsible for his workers.

Then there should be general visitation where these same personal workers, and as many others as can be enlisted should be used. A week before the campaign opens contact every prospect. The workers are again divided into groups, a captain assigned over each territory. Prepare a wall map with

each territory marked off in zones and numbered. The prospects are grouped according to zones and turned over to the captain. Each worker then knows where he is to go and whom he is expected to reach.

Not only should you visit every prospect before the meeting begins, but leave in every home an attractive folder with pictures of the evangelist and the singer and an announcement of the meeting. Then throughout the campaign there should be continuous visitation. As I have already outlined, these cards are assigned to the people for visitation, having been grouped so that it is easy to make four or five visits in one drive into that section of town. No revival campaign—city-wide or single church—should ever be attempted without a thoroughly organized visitation campaign in connection with it. Results will be from four to tenfold more every time.

Conserving Results

Then in order to conserve the results, your church should be organized for a follow-up visitation after the revival. I have seen a revival reach many people for Christ and stir up a lot of interest, and too often, after the evangelist is gone, nothing is done to enlist or to hold them. Then the pastor and church are prone to criticize the evangelist and his methods and say, "He is too high pressured. The results do not last." But whose fault is it?

A Revival Choir

Then the next step in preparation would be an enlarged revival choir. I have always believed in a great choir for a revival—a good rousing song service everybody likes. Who wants a quartet or a sextet or an octet to do all the singing in a revival? Now they are fine for special numbers, but oh, give me a good, rousing, spiritual song service, with a great choir leading! Your regular church choir is not enough. Enlist your singers. Provide extra seats. Rehearse your large choir before the meeting starts. Do not leave this to chance after the meeting begins. Oftentimes an appeal is made for a choir after the meeting begins. "We want a large choir; we want a big choir for the meeting—anybody who has a voice come and sing in the choir." The trouble is "anybody" doesn't come when you do that. You will get a few of your boys and girls, and God bless them, but their voices are immature and they are too light to make a great choir. If you are going to have a good choir, you have got to go to work on it just like you do the personal workers, and sign them up for that task in the meeting.

Publicity

Publicity is a very important item in getting ready for a revival. The first step in publicity should be a pastoral letter to every home in the church. Do not depend on an announcement from the pulpit. Too many of your members are not present to hear it, I am sorry to say. You want to reach the whole membership and try to stir an interest in their hearts and lay the burden on their hearts for a revival. So make a warm-hearted appeal to them in a personal letter.

Then the church bulletin—I am putting these in the order of their importance as I see it. The church bulletin is the next best channel. Then the radio. Then the newspapers. Then window cards. Some people depend altogether on window cards. I have always questioned whether they did very much good. I always put them out but they did not come first on the list by any means. Then automobile stickers and little tickets that should be handed out by the thousands, with the evangelist's picture, an announcement of the meeting and the time of service. They do not cost much. Then folders for your personal workers.

II. SPIRITUAL PREPARATION

Through Prayer

The first in the order of spiritual preparation is, somehow, somehow—if it takes blood, sweat, tears, pleading, agonizing for weeks before the revival—somehow, somehow get your people under the burden of prayer for the meeting. Get them to praying. The hardest

thing that I have ever had to do yet as a pastor or as an evangelist is to get people to pray. We talk a lot about praying, but we do not do much praying as a whole. It is so and we know it. Oh, this matter of prayer! Organize prayer groups of two or more all over town—everywhere you can get people to agree to pray; cottage prayer meetings everywhere you can get a home open. The more the better. Then make them prayer meetings instead of Bible lessons. Organize prayer meetings. Appoint leaders over the groups and charge them to have prayer meetings. I have gone around to see how each group was getting along and found that somebody had taken the whole time in teaching a Bible lesson. Now Bible lessons are wonderful if you are having a Bible conference, but if you are preparing for revival, you want your people to get under the burden of prayer. Make them prayer meetings.

You know, the Devil will do everything he can to keep people from praying. No amount of activity, no amount of Bible study, no amount of anything that you can do will take the place of prayer. It has been said that revivals are prayed down, but not worked up. I think they are neither prayed down nor worked up. A prayer meeting is a time of heart-searching and preparation of the people of God so that the Holy Spirit can use them as channels through which to reach a lost world. We do not have to pray down the Holy Spirit. He is here. He is here on business for God. We have to give Him a chance to work and a channel through which to work. Second Chronicles 7:14 is still God's recipe for revival: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

If the prayer rooms are filled with praying men and women the first night of a revival meeting, I know that we are going to have a revival. But, oh, in most places the evangelist has to beg, plead, coax, persuade, wait, agonize. He has got to have his heart broken and wait and wait and wait, and a little handful come night after night into the prayer room. I know; I have been through it. It is not praying down anything that brings revival, but it is spiritual preparation of the hearts of God's own people that gets them under the burden for souls.

Last year I read for the first time *The Autobiography of Charles G. Finney*. I had read excerpts from it, I had heard about it, but I bought it and read every word of it. Chapter after chapter of that book is Finney's own personal, eyewitness account of great, mighty, sweeping revivals and an outpouring of the Spirit of God. Every chapter he started off by saying, "The spirit of prayer and intercession came upon the people." No wonder sinners came by the thousands, and were saved. No wonder the power of God literally overwhelmed the people. He tells how they were convicted of sin, how they fell in the altars and even fell in the aisles like dead; how they cried out to God; how waves of conviction swept over whole towns, when the spirit of prayer and intercession came upon the people.

Preparation From the Pulpit

Then another thing in spiritual preparation is preparation from the pulpit. The pastor must do his utmost to lay the matter of this meeting on the hearts of his people. I would say, preach at least four or more Sundays before the evangelist gets there, depending upon the spiritual condition of your church, on such themes as "The Need for a Revival," or "What Is a Revival?" or "God's

(Continued on Page 8)

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The Great Paradox

(Continued from Page 1)

thousand angels. They would come to My rescue. All I would have to do is turn one beckoning finger toward Heaven; they would tear down the gates of pearl to set Me free. He did not have to stay on the cross. They said, "Come down from the cross, and we will believe that you are the Son of God;" but He stayed on the cross. He clinched the nails in His fists and refused to come down.

If He had come down from the cross, they would have said He was a strong man; He has wonderful power; He performed a miracle; but they would have denied that He was the Son of God. By staying on the cross He proved His deity. After He was taken away and placed in the tomb of Joseph and three days passed, He arose. He arose! He proved that He was the Son of God.

Resurrection, Sign of Deity

In the first chapter of Romans we are told that He is "declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." His resurrection is the sign of the great prophet Jonah. It is the sign of Deity. By staying on the cross, He proved that He was the Son of God. They said, "Come down from the cross, and we will believe it."

He stayed on the cross because He had come to save others. "He saved others; himself he cannot save." That was spoken in sarcasm; but it is true that since He saved others, Himself He could not save.

He Saved Others

There is no doubt that He saved others. He came for that purpose. All through the days of the Old Testament the finger of prophecy pointed to the coming of a Saviour. Before Jesus was born of Mary, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream at night and said, "Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for . . . she shall bring forth a son; and thou shalt call His name Jesus: [which means saviour] for he shall save his people from their sins" (Matt. 1:20, 21). When Jesus came, He claimed to be the Saviour. On one occasion He said, "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Again He said, "The Son of man is come to save that which was lost" (Matt. 18:11).

Jesus Verified His Claims

Not only did He claim to be the Saviour, but He verified His claim. On one occasion when He was in the home of a man who was sick of the palsy, He said to the young man, "Thy sins be forgiven thee." The Pharisees who stood across the room began to reason within their hearts. They said, "Who is he that hath power to forgive sins?" Jesus, knowing what they were thinking, turned to them and said, "But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) . . . Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house" (Mark, Chapter 2). The man arose and carried his bed. Jesus proved that He spoke with authority. He could not only say, "Thy sins be forgiven thee," but He could follow it with His command to "rise and walk." He proved that He was the Son of God and that He could save. He could not only say to blind Bartimaeus, "Thy faith hath made thee whole;" but He could follow the statement with "Receive thy sight." People who saw it gave glory to God. He saved others. He proved that He could save others.

He Saved Others Even as

He Was

While He was here He saved others. At the very time they were saying of Him, "He saved others; himself he cannot save," He was saving others. Of course He was dying for all the people who have ever been saved or ever will be saved; but He was saving individuals. There was a man who, according to his own testimony, was not fit to live in the world. This man was the dying thief who said to his companion,

"We receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss." In the darkness of that hour He cried out, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom" (Luke 23:41, 42). That night before the sun went down, Jesus entered paradise with the soul of a dying thief as evidence of the power of His blood to cleanse from sin. He saved others, even a dying thief, even a man who said, "I'm not fit to live"; a man who said, "I ought to be crucified." Jesus said, "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." He saved others.

He Saved Others After His Resurrection

He continued to save others after His death, after His resurrection. There was Saul of Tarsus, Saul who had just left the scene of the stoning of Stephen. He was on his way to Damascus to persecute others. He was breathing out threatenings and slaughters against the children of God. He had a vision. He saw a light flash from Heaven; and a voice spoke and said, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" He said, "Who art thou, Lord?" "Jesus whom thou persecutest" (Acts 9:4, 5). Saul went down to Damascus where he received his sight, and he went away from there with one device—banned forth in his far exultant cry, "For to me to live is Christ" (Phil. 1:21). This man who persecuted Christ, who breathed out threatenings against the people of Christ, became the greatest advocate of the Christian religion the world has ever known. Through this chosen servant God has given us at least thirteen epistles of the New Testament.

He Has Saved Millions

He saved others, millions of others. Nobody but God could do for one what Jesus Christ did for a notorious drunkard, one who was so helpless in the grip of the awful habit and sin of drinking. One night when he staggered home, he found his wife distracted, she had a prescription in her hand; the doctor had just left. She said, "The doctor says there's not much hope for the baby, and we don't have much money. I want you to be careful. Take this prescription, go down to the drug store and get it filled. Do be careful. This is all the money we have." He took the money and started to the drug store to get the prescription filled. He came to a saloon, and the temptation was so strong that he turned into the saloon and bought liquor. That night when he staggered home, he found his wife clutching to her bosom the cold form of a lifeless child. He cursed and swore that he would never touch another drop; but the next day when the little body was interred, he was in a saloon drunk. In that condition, he said, "I'm not fit to live." Why, he used to tell that he was even tempted to take the shoes from the little feet of the babe as it lay in state and sell them to buy drink. He said, "I ought to die. I'm going to kill myself." He had read a few days before of how a man jumped into soft concrete where they were building a bridge and ended his life. He started for this bridge; but on his way, he came to the old Pacific Garden Mission, the place where Billy Sunday was saved. There was a group of half-drunk bums on the outside of the mission. He stopped there for a moment. Somebody pushed him in the back door. Harry Monroe, the man who led Billy Sunday to Christ, saw him standing back there. He went back to him and said, "Come on down; here's a place for you." He came down to the altar. "That night," he said, "at twenty-five minutes past nine, I passed out of death into life, out of darkness into His marvelous light." He became a wonderful Christian, one of the most elegant gentlemen I ever knew, one of the finest Christians I have ever met. He became a chosen servant of God. He founded sixty-three gospel missions. He preached the gospel throughout this land and won literally thousands upon thousands of souls. I am saying to you, only God can

do that for a man.

He Saved Me

Only God can do for a man what Jesus Christ does for people. He saved others! He saved my poor soul. If all the proof I had that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He is the Saviour were my simple faith in Him, that is all I would need. Nobody but God can do for one what Jesus Christ did for me. He made me a child of God. He saved others; Himself he could not save.

Only God Can Save

I want to say to you that saving others is the greatest work on the face of the earth. It is God's work. It is a work so great only God can do it. It is the work of Christ. Only Christ can save. His blood is essential. His death and His resurrection are necessary. His life must be imparted to you and me; and we are not saved by a dead Saviour; we are saved by One who ever liveth, and is able to save. Only Christ can save.

Only the Holy Spirit can save, for it is the Holy Spirit who performs the work of regeneration. It is the Holy Spirit who performs the work of the new birth and makes us children of God. Only God the Father can save. Only God the Son can save. Only God the Spirit can save. These three are one.

We May Save

There is a sense in which you and I may save others. God saves us, Christ saves us, the Spirit saves us; and the Christian who leads the sinner to Christ saves that soul. In the last verse of James we read, "He which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins." To win a soul to Christ is to save that soul.

Last summer in St. Paul where I had held a meeting two years before, a broad-shouldered, handsome young man came to me and said, "Do you remember me?"

I thought for just a moment and said, "Yes, I can't call your name, but I do remember you. I remember that you were very faithful in attendance at the services when I was here two years ago."

He said, "You ought to remember me; you saved me."

I was afraid he was confused about the plan of salvation. I said, "Well, actually I did not save you. I just had the privilege of telling you about Christ who saved you."

"Oh," he said, "I know all of that, but you saved me. You brought me to Jesus. I'm saved. I'm so glad that you told me about Him."

I would rather have one say to me, "You brought me to Jesus, and I want to thank you," than to have all the gold and gems that ever glittered in the coffers of kings.

Great Privilege to Save Others

What a privilege! We may do the work of God. We may save others. It is a privilege that angels covet. You may be a saviour. Only God can save. The blood of Jesus is essential. His death and resurrection and life are essential, but you may be a saviour. You may save immortal souls! I believe the angels would be glad to leave their high estate, come down into this old world of woe, take on themselves the form of men and "suffer the slings and

When the Fire Fell in Recent Years

By REV. GEORGE T. B. DAVIS, Executive Secretary
The Million Testaments Campaigns.

In a glorious manner the divine fire fell from heaven in connection with the remarkable meetings conducted by Dwight L. Moody and Ira D. Sankey in Great Britain and America. The great evangelistic campaigns of these Spirit-filled evangelists stirred England and America more deeply than any similar meetings since the days of Wesley and Whitefield in England, and of Charles G. Finney in the United States.

Mr. Moody was a clerk in a shoe store in Boston, Mass. He was converted and mightily filled with the Holy Spirit. Mr. Sankey was a master of gospel song. When they joined forces, and were backed by multitudes of praying people, they moved two great nations Godward.

When Moody and Sankey visited the British Isles, they filled the largest buildings to overflowing. Multitudes of all classes were saved, and great multitudes of Christian people were set on fire for God. Many years after the close of their meetings in Great Britain, I was informed that great numbers of the earnest Christian workers in the various churches in the British Isles were the outcome of the Moody and Sankey meetings. In America the evangelists kept revival fires burning in multitudes of hearts and homes and churches for many years as they went up and down the land holding revival meetings that taxed to capacity great halls in many large cities. One of the enduring monuments of Moody in America is the Moody Bible Institute in Chicago which has trained many thousands of Christian workers for valiant service for God, both in America and in foreign lands.

Moody himself gratefully acknowledged that it was the prayers of an invalid woman that caused the fire to fall from on high at the beginning of their revival meetings in the British Isles!

It was nothing less than a great volume of intercessory prayer that sent Dr. R. A. Torrey and Mr. Charles M. Alexander sweeping around the world like a gale from heaven. It is estimated that 100,000 souls professed faith in Christ during their world-wide revival tour. Their meetings in Melbourne, Australia, were preceded by 1700 cottage prayer meetings! No wonder the fire fell from heaven and the great Melbourne Exhibition Building was crowded with eager listeners and multitudes were saved. For three years

arrows that flesh is heir to" if they might have the privilege of saving others. It is a privilege. "They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever" (Dan. 12:3). It is the highest privilege we have as children of God. I do not wonder that Paul told those whom he had won, "You are our rejoicing at that day," for there is no joy in all the world comparable to the joy that comes to the heart of a Christian when he wins a soul to Christ. Even though he may not have been the person who got him to make his final decision, if his life has been an influence in bringing that person to Christ and he hears about it, the joy that floods his soul is sublime. I do not wonder that God has offered a crown of joy to the soul winner, for there is no joy comparable (Continued on Page 6)

Torrey and Alexander held meetings in Great Britain and again the cities were shaken by the power of God as in the days of Moody and Sankey. It was my privilege to be with Torrey and Alexander during their last nine months in Great Britain. Once more great buildings were filled to overflowing, and the famous "Glory Song" swept over the British Empire more rapidly, it was said, than had ever been done before by any song, sacred or secular. Messenger boys whistled it as they went about the streets on their errands; pianos rang it out in the homes and on trans-Atlantic liners. The very atmosphere of heaven was in the revival meetings.

And what was the secret of it all? Dr. Torrey told me that during their three years of meetings in the British Isles 20,000 people were banded together in Prayer Groups all over the land praying for their meetings, and that this was in addition to the intensive prayer in each city where they held their revival meetings. It was prayer—earnest, continuous, persistent, believing intercession—that was the secret and the source of the power in their great meetings!

Once more the fire fell from heaven in connection with the round-the-world revival meetings of Dr. J. Wilbur Chapman and Mr. Charles M. Alexander. They also held great meetings in Australia, Great Britain and America, with multitudes saved, and multitudes of Christians wondrously quickened in the faith. It was my privilege to be a member of the Chapman-Alexander party as they visited these and other lands.

The Chapman-Alexander meetings in Boston, Massachusetts, deeply stirred that famous New England city. The newspapers carried big headlines about the progress of the work. Newspaper reporters were carrying New Testaments in their pockets. Multitudes of people were born again into the kingdom of God.

From Boston the evangelists sailed for Australia from Vancouver, Canada. As they journeyed across the continent holding meetings en route, many thousands of intercessors were enlisted. Then in Australia multitudes more of prayer partners were added. What was the result? The Chapman-Alexander meetings in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, and other places were not simply another series of evangelistic meetings. As the people of America and Australia mingled their petitions before the Throne of Grace the fire once more fell from heaven and wondrously moved the Australian Commonwealth Godward.

Here is just one example of the untold blessing that followed. The soul of a pastor in Adelaide, Rev. Lionel Fletcher, was so stirred by the power of God in the meetings that he himself became a flaming evangelist. He went throughout the British Empire in the power

(Continued on Page 7)

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The Great Paradox

(Continued from Page 5)

to that. I have had many people say to me, "Thank you for leading me to Jesus. Thank you for leading me to Christ." My heart just thrilled! And I say, thank God for the privilege of leading people to Christ.

A Privilege But a Great Responsibility

It is a privilege; but my friend, it is a responsibility that you cannot afford to shirk. I have said that the angels would be glad to share this privilege, but it is a duty great enough to stagger an archangel. Some time ago while holding a series of meetings in Detroit I was asked to visit a man in prison. I called upon the man and led him to Christ. He was in prison for manslaughter. He was not guilty of murder in the first degree. He had been left in charge of a railroad gate. It was his responsibility to put down the gate when trains were coming. He was guilty of negligence. He failed to get the gate down in time, and a man was killed. This was the dereliction of duty. The law called it manslaughter, and the poor man was doing time in prison because of his negligence.

Spiritual Manslaughter

I left the prison asking, "O God, is it true that if I fail to reach people whom I could reach for Christ, I am guilty of spiritual manslaughter?" The Holy Spirit brought to my mind Ezekiel 33:8: "If thou dost not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand." Negligence and failure on my part murders the soul of another; so by the grace of God, my soul may be delivered, but I will be like one who has had all of his possessions burned. I will be ashamed at the coming of Jesus, ashamed to look Him in the face, ashamed to stand in His presence, ashamed to see Him. I do not want to be ashamed to look at Jesus. I do want to look at Him, and I want Him to look at me and smile. I have often thought if He will smile at me just one time, in all eternity, if He will just look at me and say, "Well done" and smile, that is all the recompense I want for my service. Crowns; what do I want with crowns if He will smile at me once and say, "Thank you for your faithfulness"? I do not want crowns. I would rather have Him give me His smile of approval. There are Christians who are negligent, whose lives do not speak for Him, who are cold and backslidden, out of the will of God, stumbling blocks in the way, like dogs in the manger. They will not enter into the riches of Christ, and they will keep others out.

You Must Help or Hinder

You cannot get out of this position unless you get right. You cannot. You may say, "I prefer to go away and have nothing to do with anyone else and not hurt anybody with my influence," but you cannot do that. You have influence. You may be a kind of non-entity, but you have influence. A little hair casts a shadow. If you are a non-entity, you ought not to be. You will influence someone else to be a non-entity. You cannot get out of the position of influence. You are either going to bless others or you are going to hinder others. You are going to be a power and a blessing to others around you or you are going to be in the way of somebody else. You will either lift up or tear down. There is no middle ground in this. Somebody says, "Why can't you be on middle ground? Why can't you be neither hot nor cold, just lukewarm?" When they are lukewarm, Jesus said that is the time to spew them out. Their influence would be better if they were cold. They would at least serve as horrible examples; but when they are not what they ought to be, their influence is bad. I would rather be cold than lukewarm. May God help us to accept this responsibility.

Everything Worthwhile Is Result of Sacrifice

He saved others; Himself He could not save. If you save others,

you cannot save yourself. Everything in the world worth while comes from the result of a sacrifice. Strike a match, and if it gives off its light, it burns away; light a candle, and if it gives off its light, it melts. You illuminate your home with electricity. It has to be generated. It has to be paid for. It is the result of a sacrifice. It costs something. You say, "Well, I received everything that I have without much sacrifice. I have comfort, and I did not sacrifice to get it." Somebody sacrificed, somebody paid a price, somebody worked to accumulate a fortune. Somebody somewhere sacrificed. We have this wonderful civilization, but our forefathers braved the stormy and uncharted seas and planted colonies in the wilds of this continent. Our heroes fought and died, and people sacrificed at home and paid a price in order that we might maintain the privileges that we have—freedom, liberty, it cost a price. Salvation cost a price. It cost an infinite price. It cost the most precious jewel in Heaven. It cost the life of Christ. It cost the blood of the Son of God. It cost Him infinite agony in His soul; and it cost the shame and ignominy of the cross.

You Cannot Save Yourself

They said, "He saved others; himself he cannot save." He was thinking of others, praying for others, "Father, forgive them; they know not what they do." What a prayer! He saved others, but He could not save Himself. If you save others, you cannot save yourself.

You know, there are laws in this universe, physical laws; there are laws of force; there is the law of gravity. Everything is pulled toward the center of the earth. If you climb up on a building and jump off, you will fall down to the ground and break your neck. Gravity will pull you down. There are laws that will not be set aside for you, inexorable laws, laws of God that cannot be abrogated. There are also spiritual laws that cannot be set aside.

Paradoxes

There is the law that Christ proclaimed—that the person who saves himself, loses himself. That if you will come after Him, you will have to deny yourself and take a cross and follow Him, but in trusting Him there is life. In going with Him, there is abundant life. The way up is down. That is the law of direction, spiritually. Humble yourself and you will be exalted. Exalt yourself and you will be abased. The first shall be last. Put yourself first, for selfish purposes, and God will put you last.

I once had some children on a picnic. One little fellow elbowed his way to the front. He was going to lead the way to the table. He was going to be first. He pushed down some other children. There was one sweet little girl who got up and brushed herself. She was at the end of the line. She was crying. I tried to comfort her. I said, "All right, everybody get in line. Line up, and if anybody gets out of line, he won't get anything to eat. Now, I mean it. Get in line." They lined up. The roughest boy in the crowd was at the front, second roughest was second in line, and so it was. And I said, "All right, everybody in place? Now right where you are, turn around, and we will start down here with this little girl." She was the first to the table. And that is the way God runs his program.

The First Shall Be Last

Some fellow says, "I'll be first. Let me be first;" and he is going to lead the procession. Now if God places you first, you lead like a soldier, lead like this little girl. If God puts you in a place of leadership, lead. But if for selfish purposes you put yourself there, God will put you last. Somebody puts himself first and leads the way up to the very pearly gates; he feels that he is the leader, he thinks he is, it seems so to him. He is right against the pearly gates with his nose rubbing the pearl. He wonders why the gate does not swing open. Everything

The Meanest People in the World

By EVANGELIST DEL FEHSENFELD

"Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."
—Matt. 4:19.

"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."
—James 4:17.

Somewhere, a long time ago, I heard someone say, "The meanest people in the world are Christian people who have the keys to the kingdom of Heaven and will not use them." I am not certain that I fully remember the application the speaker made of those words which he quoted. I do believe, however, that Scripture will bear out the contention that the meanest people in the world are those who are saved, who have the truth that will enlighten others that they may be saved, and they withhold it from those who need truth. It is far worse to withhold such light than to stand by, observing a building on fire without making any effort to call a fire department or without making any attempt at rescue, although fully conscious that the burning building is crowded with sleeping men and women unaware of their plight. Yes, to withhold such light is far worse than to stand on the shore holding a life preserver, watching a man drown and hearing his call for help, without making any effort to save or rescue him. Mean, vile, wicked and sinful above all others is the person who knows to do good and does it not. He hears but does not do. He is not only the meanest person in the world, but likewise, a foolish person according to Jesus.

"And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."
—Matt. 7:26, 27.

That servant will have an unpleasant pay day one day in the future.

"And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes."
—Luke 12:47.

The direct call, challenge and command of our blessed Lord is, "Follow me." The purpose for that call is that He may make us fishers of men (Matt. 4:19). You are saved to be used of Him that He may save others. You are saved to bleed that He may bless others through you unto life everlasting. You are saved that out of your belly "shall flow rivers of living water" (John 7:38), that soul-thirsty and dying men may drink of the water of life and live. You are saved to "give ye them to eat," that hungry men and women may eat of the bread of life and have their soul-hunger appeased unto life eternal. Yes, you are saved as are all others, to win souls. If we do not make the effort to give out the light, we qualify, as individuals, as a part of the meanest people in the world.

Need I say once more that which you have heard so many times before, that every born again child of God can be and should be winning souls? To be sure you will not win everyone you witness to, but you will win some if you make the effort, standing on His promise, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19).

Make no mistake about it; God loved you and gave His Son to die for you. And, Christ loved us and gave Himself, "bare our sins in his own body on the

gets quiet. You know there are twelve gates up there. He looks around and he is all alone. And he looks over to the other gate and they are going in there. He has to run to get in. He is the last one in. He puts himself first; God puts him last. He saves himself, he loses all that he has. He does not save anything. He is selfish. God's spiritual law says that if you save your life, you lose it; but if for His sake you give your life, you find life more abundant. You Lay in dust life's glory dead, And from the ground there blossoms red Life that shall endless be."

tree" (I Pet. 2:24). All of it happened that we might be redeemed from the penalty of sin (Rom. 6:23). Yet, the higher motive for God saving us through Christ is found in the words of Jesus, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain" (John 15:16). Thus we have it clearly stated by our Lord that we are saved to bear fruit, or, in other words, win souls. In His words we have the guarantee of victory in the effort if we obey the challenge, "Follow me."

So, if you are not winning souls, you are not only living beneath your privileges as a blood-bought son of God, but you are definitely disobeying the command of the Lord, "Follow me." That is wicked and sinful. Remind yourself and keep on reminding yourself that the Lord who never lies has promised to make you and me fishers of men if we follow Him. If we are not winning souls, you and I may profitably ask ourselves the question, Wherein am I falling short of following the Lord? Our heart-searching ought to include, among other things,

1. What about my prayer life in winning the lost?
2. What about my purpose for winning the lost?
3. What about my planning to win the lost?
4. What about my passion for the lost?
5. What about my power to win the lost?

I. What About My Prayer Life in Winning the Lost?

If we follow Jesus, our prayer life will be more than vain repetitions, for against such Jesus taught in Matthew 6:7: "But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathens do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking." If we follow Jesus, there will be closet prayer for He emphasized the need of such in Matthew 6:6: "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly." If we follow Jesus we shall rise a great while before day to pray, for thus did He. "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed" (Mark 1:35).

If we follow Jesus, our prayers will be for others (John 17).

Are you following Jesus in your prayer life? Possibly your failure to win souls is due to your failure to follow Jesus in your prayer life. There are many other things that enter in to make our efforts victorious in winning souls but nothing is more important than daily, fervent, persistent and agonizing prayer for the lost. If you and I follow Jesus in prayer we will be right on all other secondary matters unto victory. Yet if we are right on all the secondary matters and short on our prayer life for the lost, we will be short on victory. Jesus taught that to the defeated disciples in Matthew 17:21, "Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."

II. What About My Purpose for Winning the Lost?

It is commendable to aspire to win the lost. Yet the Devil can hinder you from gaining victory

if your motive for winning the lost is selfish and sinful. Jesus gave us the primary and paramount purpose for winning the lost in the words, "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit" (John 15:8). If your heart yearns to win the lost that you may glorify the Father, you may be sure that victory is guaranteed, for all the power of God is at your command when you set forth on such an objective. On the other hand, if your only motive to win the lost is rooted in your desire to be acclaimed a soul winner or to but help a loved one escape Hell, your motives are not what they should be and you hinder your own soul-winning effort. Let us daily aspire to heed the words of Jesus, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and GLORIFY YOUR FATHER which is in heaven" (Matt. 5:16). If we do, our soul-winning efforts will be with the highest and best purposes. Then the Lord can use us to the fullest.

III. What About My Planning to Win the Lost?

Jesus once said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God" (Matt. 6:33a). In other words, to His disciples Jesus left a message which says, if paraphrased, "Make your plans to win the lost in any way and everywhere. Do your best. Put soul-winning first in your aims and actions." If you and I are to win the lost as the Lord yearns for us to win them, we must put the first thing first. Above everything else winning souls is supreme. It should be first. That is what Jesus said in Matthew 6:33. Bible teaching and preaching is wonderful and ordained of God. Yet it is to be done with the objective of pleasing God, "By the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (I Cor. 1:21). Bible conferences, Bible study in schools, Bible study in the home or anywhere else should culminate in souls being saved. To fall short of winning souls to Christ, however worthy may be our undertakings, is to be defeated by Satan and fall short of glorifying the Father, for "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit" (John 15:8). Please note the fact that Jesus said as we "bear much fruit" will the Father be glorified. There is a striking parallelism in fruit-bearing in John 15: (a) fruit, (b) more fruit, and (c) much fruit; and in Mark 4:20, (a) thirty-fold, (b) sixty, and (c) some an hundred. May the Lord stir each of us to plan to win souls and bear much fruit, yea, an hundredfold.

Has your planning included an attempt to win souls on the bus, street car, train, or plane; in the highways; in the hedges; in the homes; in the stores; in business houses and everywhere the Lord opens the door? If it has, you will meet with victory as you go forth sowing precious seed and watering your sowing with your tears. The promise of God will be fulfilled: "...shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psa. 126:6). Following Jesus will include praying as He did; purposing to win the lost as He did; planning to win them as He did Nicodemus at night (John 3); at the well in the enemy country (John 4); at the sycamore tree when he won Zacchaeus (Luke 19). Remember He said, "The Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). Following Him, above all else our plans will be to win the lost anywhere and everywhere, by day or night, as did He. Yes, it will include seeking to win them.

If you are not winning souls, as you search your heart to as-

(Continued on Page 7)

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When the Fire Fell in Recent Years

(Continued from Page 5)

of the Holy Spirit and saw tens of thousands of young people confess Christ and dedicate their lives to His service.

Again and again it has ever been the same story of fire falling from heaven in answer to prayer. Intercessory prayer was the secret of blessing in the Chapman-Alexander meetings! It was the secret in the Torrey-Alexander campaigns! And it will

ever be the open secret of revival blessing! God still hears and answers the earnest, continued cry of His children!

Who can estimate the untold blessings of the Billy Sunday revival meetings throughout the length and breadth of the United States? Praise God for the hundreds of thousands who professed faith in Christ in his meetings. Praise God for the towns and cities that were moved God-ward by his meetings as the fire fell

from heaven.

And what was the secret of Billy Sunday's power with God and men? Again it was intercessory prayer. Billy would not go to a town or city until they had formed and held cottage prayer meetings. Sometimes the revival began even before Mr. Sunday arrived in the city.

Recently I was talking with a minister who was the pastor of a church in Trenton, New Jersey, when Billy Sunday had his city-wide campaign there. The pastor told me that as the result of the Billy Sunday meetings he took 170 people into his church, and that they were the backbone of that church today.

"And what shall I more say" of the great meetings of Gypsy Smith and many other Spirit-filled evangelists who have gone up and down this and other lands borne on the wings of intercessory prayer, and seeing multitudes saved, and multitudes quickened in the faith?

And praise God for the Youth for Christ movement, and the Saturday night meetings that are spreading so rapidly in this and other lands. More power to the arms of all those who are conducting these youth meetings! This movement is one of the most hopeful harbingers of revival on the spiritual horizon today.

Oh friends, God still hears and answers the earnest, persistent, fervent intercession of His children, and opens the windows of heaven today just as truly as in days gone by!

Let us keep on praying, both individually and in prayer groups, until another great spiritual awakening sweeps over our land, and even to the uttermost parts of the earth!

There are two ways in which each one who reads these lines can have a real and vital share in helping to bring about national and world-wide revival:

1. You can pray earnestly for revival each day in your own (Continued on Page 8)

give an increase. "Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear" (Isa. 59:1, 2). Don't doubt God. Believe God and expect victory from God in soul-winning and you will have it.

The great preacher Spurgeon once asked a young preacher if he expected someone to be saved each time he preached. The young man replied that he did not. To the answer, Mr. Spurgeon is reported to have said, "And that is the reason you don't see folks saved each time you preach." As we preach, teach or witness to win souls, let us expect an increase of God. We are admonished by the Lord, "Have faith in God." Again, "According to your faith be it unto you." May we move in His power, expecting His increase.

In closing I remind you, you are saved to win souls. You are sinning if you do not win souls. You can win souls. Although you will not win everyone to whom you witness, you will win some. Something is wrong if you are not winning souls, for Jesus did not lie when He said, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matt. 4:19). Meet the requirements of the Lord to win souls and you will win souls. The Lord has promised, "They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psa. 126:5, 6).

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EDITOR IN REVIVAL AT MARION, OHIO, AND SAN PEDRO, CALIF.

By the Editor

Yesterday I arrived home from Shenandoah after a triumphant and blessed revival. For a radius of 200 miles, people seemed influenced by the campaign. Several times people attended the services from a distance of 200 miles. Last Sunday afternoon there were delegations from Lincoln, Nebraska; Sioux City, Iowa; from Omaha; and other cities and towns twenty to 130 miles away. Many delegations came from Missouri. The campaign closed Sunday night with the building packed, fifteen professions of faith, and a tremendous moving of the Spirit of God on all hearts. The pastors and workers of the community were so impressed that they are planning for another campaign, a great tent revival effort perhaps in September. Including perhaps 175 public professions in the regular services, many saved in children's service and school services, there must have been between 300 and 400 public confessions of faith in the Shenandoah campaign.

One Presbyterian pastor who is not allowed to give an invitation in his church, brought a great crowd from his church, and two rows of boys trusted Christ. He said, "I am ashamed that we have to bring our young people forty miles to get them saved!" The forces of modernism and other

forces against evangelism were thoroughly defeated in this campaign.

Today I fly to Columbus, Ohio and there will be met and taken to Marion, where I begin tonight a union revival campaign, with every Protestant church except two cooperating. Services will be in the Star Auditorium, February 18 through Wednesday, March 5, God willing.

Dr. Harry Clarke and I will then fly to California for a union campaign sponsored by ministers and churches of San Pedro, California, March 9 through March 30. We covet the prayers of all of our friends for a great pouring out of the Holy Spirit. And we are claiming the promise of Romans 15:29, "And I am sure that, when I come unto you, I shall come in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of Christ."

Have A Heart!



This picture aptly illustrates the many calls we receive asking us to take homeless and problem boys.

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certain why you are not, you may well question.

IV. "What About My Passion for the Lost?"

Is it true of you, "When he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them" (Matt. 9:36)? Is it true of you, "And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it" (Luke 19:41)? Time and again we read of Jesus being moved with compassion as He saw blind, bent and broken humanity made so by sin. The heart concern, the passion and sympathy of Jesus for sin-cursed humanity is beyond description by mortal man. Because He cared, He "endured the cross, despising the shame" (Heb. 12:2). Because He cared, people responded to His call, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28). If we care, we shall also see people responding to the gospel appeal as the Lord speaks through us. But—do we care? If we do, experience has taught me, yea, experience has verified the Word of God, that we shall "reap in joy" after we "sow in tears." And, if we care there will be tears to indicate it. At times there will be many tears; at other times there will be fewer. There will be tears if we care. What about your passion in winning the lost? Is it nothing to you that men are dying and going to Hell? Or, are you sowing in tears? If you are unable to weep over souls, ask the Lord to move upon your heart so that you may do so, for sowing in tears means reaping in joy. It does not say sow in joy. It says, "Sow in tears" (Psa. 126:5). The Lord's promise is the same. Claim it and "reap in joy." For, "He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Psa. 126:6).

Above all else, if we are to follow Jesus that He may make us fishers of men, we need ask ourselves,

V. What About My Power to Win the Lost?

Of Jesus we read, "And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power" (Luke 4:32). The thing that made Jesus so outstanding as the Son of Man was His power. If you miss that, you may fall short of winning souls due to your failure to follow Jesus in power. Why was His teaching with authority? Say anything you want about it and fail to say, "It was the power of the Holy Spirit upon what He said," and you miss the main truth about it all. Acts 1:2b says, "...he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen." Read and re-read it and remember that the Son of Man gave commandments through the Holy Ghost. The word He spoke pierced. The Holy Spirit moved. It is His responsibility to move. The Holy Spirit uses the Sword of the Spirit to pierce "to the dividing asunder." You and I, under the Holy Spirit's power, speaking the Word of God as the Spirit leads, are going to be no less astonishing in our presentation of the doctrine than was Jesus, for it is written that He said, "Follow me." Peter wrote also, "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (1 Pet. 2:21). Marvel-

ous may be your Bible expositions and your Bible teachings. Correct may be your doctrinal presentation. But unless you go about "in the power of the Spirit," as did Jesus (Luke 4:14) you will be short on sheaves to lay at the feet of the Lord.

On the other hand, you may be short on homiletics, alliteration or illustration in sermonic presentation, or even short on teaching of dispensational and deep spiritual truth as religious leaders feel and think. Yet, if you go about "in the power of the Spirit," as did Jesus, you will win souls. It remains true, "Not by might, not by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts" (Zach. 4:6).

I have heard preachers who could preach rings around the late Dwight L. Moody and Billy Sunday (if the printed page is a good criterion of what they preached) from the standpoint of homiletics, illustration, alliteration and grammatical construction of sentences. Yet, they didn't get anything close to the results of the two aforementioned men of God. Why not? Of course, the excuse offered in this hour by some is, Moody and Sunday were special men chosen of God for a special work and the Lord does not intend to use all men like that. If you offer that alibi for your failure to win souls, where is your Scripture for it? My Lord said, "Greater works than these shall ye do." Are we doing it? Why not? Billy Sunday and Dwight L. Moody were used of the Lord to do it. Why not you and me? In excusing and explaining the lack of results some dare to belittle what the Lord did through the aforementioned men of God. Tragic indeed that men who are failing should seek to justify themselves by such a procedure. That doesn't bring victory in soul-winning effort, does it? It remains a fact that souls are being saved through the ministry of men who go about "in the power of the Spirit," as did Jesus. It remains a fact that people got saved under less eloquent but Spirit-dictated and directed preaching, from the lips of Billy Sunday and Dwight L. Moody, than are being saved today under more eloquent preaching. It remains a fact that people are yet being "astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power" in places where teachers, Christian workers and preachers move "in the power of the Spirit," as did Jesus. The concern of your heart and mine should be, Am I living, moving and witnessing under this power? If not, I must do so in the future if I am to follow Jesus and win souls: Luke 11:13 and Acts 1:8, as well as Acts 5:32 and Galatians 3:14 is the solution for your life and mine unto guaranteed power and victory.

I agree heartily with those who herald that one plants, another waters, but God alone gives the increase. That is borne out by 1 Corinthians 3:6. But don't rest smug in Zion if the increase doesn't come. To do so would be sinful. Remember, "God giveth the increase." He will give it if we meet His conditions whereby He can give it. Do not let the Devil keep you from expecting it. You are to expect it. You may have it for you are ordained to bring forth fruit, according to the words of Jesus in John 15:16. If there is no increase, something is wrong. Get that something straightened out. Remove that sin through the confession of and forsaking of sin and the Lord will

Preparing the Church for Revival

(Continued from Page 4)

Way to a Revival," or "Individual Responsibility for Lost Souls." Oh, try to get them burdened for those who are lost! Do you know why so many people are going to Hell all around us? It is because so few people care. Oh, when somebody's heart breaks, souls are going to be saved.

I was in a meeting in a little village in north Texas when I first started out in the ministry. Thirty-three people were saved in that little village church—I thought we had had a good revival. The closing night of the revival I said, "Let's not hurry off. Let's have all these people who have been saved stand here in the altar to-night and have an old fashioned hand-shaking. Give them the hand of Christian fellowship." Those thirty-three converts stood there in the altar of that church. Then the people started down the line while the choir was singing. A little red-headed woman was there who could neither read nor write—one of the most illiterate persons I have ever known. But oh, that woman loved the Lord and she had a burden for souls. There was a little room in the church off to my right. When I came down to the morning services, I would hear her voice in that room crying out to God with sobs and a broken heart. I did not know how long she had been there. When I came in the evening she was there in that room alone, crying to God. The closing night she rushed up to me as I was standing in the pulpit and said, "Brother Hankins, God isn't through! God isn't through! God isn't ready to close this meeting. There is a young man in the choir that I have been praying for and he is under conviction. Won't you speak to him?"

When I turned around to speak to that young man, I saw that woman make a dive for that little room. When she started, she said, "I will be in here praying for you." She went in there and I saw her fall down on the floor on her face before God. I had not spoken a half-dozen sentences to this young man until he gave his heart to the Lord. He said, "I want to confess Him right now!" He stepped up behind the pulpit and publicly confessed Christ. His mother was at the back. When I called that young man's name, that old mother came down the aisle shouting the praises of God! Her boy was saved! Then after he had made his confession, there came a young woman from the other way. Running up on the platform she took her place by his side and said, "That is my husband! If he is going to give his heart to Christ and live for God, I am going with him." She stood there with him and made her public confession. Her mother was in the back, and she started shouting the praises of God, too.

You know, I still like to see people get full enough of the joy of the Lord to run over and shout sometime. But the trouble with us is that we have gotten so up-to-date in our churches and so prim and so sedate that most of us are even afraid to let out a good, happy "Amen." In the average church today you can preach your heart out and you cannot even get a holy grunt, much less a good, "Amen!" We are so afraid of a little emotionalism in religion.

That night in the little village church the Power of God came in such a way that we just lost track of time and everything else. When the Holy Spirit quieted things down, it was five minutes after twelve, and thirty-seven adults—some of the hardest men in that village—were standing in the altar of that church, having confessed the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour. I had forgotten all about the little red-headed woman until then. I looked around and that door was still ajar. She was still on her face, holding on to God. I never had such gratitude in my heart toward a human being, I think, in my life. I went in there and got her by the hand

and said, "Stand up! I want you to come out here and see. You, on your face tonight, have had a greater meeting in these three hours than I have had in two weeks." Oh, if we could get God's people burdened for souls to where they would shed tears over a lost world, and the spirit of prayer and intercession would come again upon the people.

The lost are here aplenty. The commission is ours. The message is ours. The Holy Spirit is ours. The same God who went with Paul is ours. And Paul won his thousands to Christ where we win our tens.

Then the second preparation from the pulpit is to commit your church members to a definite task. You can't leave things to chance and hope the people will do it. You commit people to a definite responsibility, and then keep after them to see that they do it.

I brought along a sample of a card that I have used for years. This card reads,

MY REVIVAL COVENANT

Believing that the greatest need of our day is a genuine, old-time Holy Ghost revival and desiring to do my part in order to bring such a revival in our church, I gladly covenant with the Lord and with my church to earnestly endeavor to do things checked below unless

providentially hindered.

1. To become a member of a prayer group —
2. To pray at least fifteen minutes each day —
3. To attend every evening service unless providentially hindered —
4. To attend every morning service unless providentially hindered —
5. To make at least one visit a day —
6. To try, by the help of the Holy Spirit, to win at least one soul during the meeting —

Name

Press the signing of this card upon the people Sunday after Sunday for weeks before the meeting begins and urge them to check what they will agree to do in the way of a definite responsibility.

The Rewards of Such a Program

Now let me close my message by saying this; the rewards are worth the price. Can you imagine the joy of a pastor's heart—I say it humbly, God did it by honoring His Word and His plan and the labors and prayers of His people—can you imagine the joy of a pastor's heart in having 3,105 additions to his church membership in five years! Can you imagine the joy of a pastor's heart in baptizing converts Sunday after Sunday throughout the year! Can you imagine the reward! Can you imagine what it will do to a church! Can't you see the joy of the Lord in that church? Can't

When the Fire Fell in Recent Years

(Continued from Page 7)

home. Send for a prayer card for your own use day by day, and for a supply to give to others to enlist their prayers for revival.

2nd. Form, if at all possible, a prayer group to pray daily or weekly for revival in this land and throughout the world. A man in Manila and the Philippine Islands recently read this book and has started a prayer group which meets daily to intercede for revival.

Dear Reader: Will you not take the message of this series of articles to your own heart? Please ask the Lord to empower you for intercessory prayer for revival and to help you to enlist others to become intercessors. In this way you can have a very real and vital share in helping to bring glorious spiritual awakening to this and

you see every problem in that church fading away like mist before the sunrise! All the friction in a church goes when people are being saved Sunday after Sunday.

Then when the revival time comes—Oh, I shall never forget my people during the first week of a campaign. Usually, the evangelist began on Monday night. Hyman Appelmann was with my church in Childress, Texas. And he can tell you that the first night he came, we had 1,500 people out for him to preach to on Monday night. That first week of the

other lands!

"And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none." Ezekiel 22:30.

God forbid that we should fail to stand in the gap for our beloved land!

This is the last in a series of articles taken from the book, *When the Fire Fell*, by George T. B. Davis and presented to the readers of *The Sword of the Lord* by the kind permission of the author.

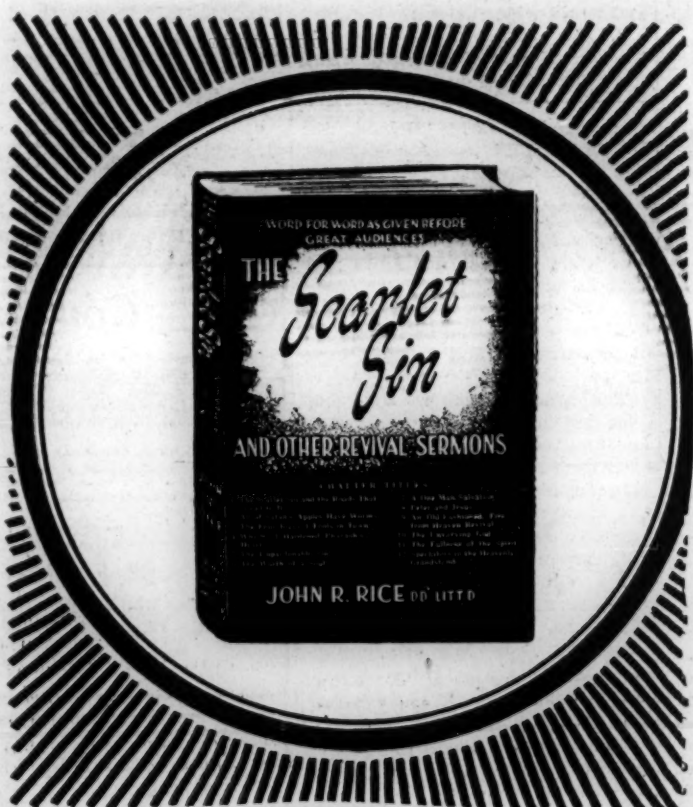
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meeting is the killer. Oh, get your people in there to start off with. The joy! The joy! The reward! "He that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal." It is a price to pay. I find that many people and many churches want a revival but I find mighty few who are willing to pay the price for a revival. But invariably results are in direct proportion to work done in the preparation period and during the meeting, and to the burden of prayer on the part of the pastor and the church.

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